

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-60 are pending.

1. (currently amended) A communications system for providing programming content through a communications network, the system comprising:

an interface for receiving, from a terminal, a request for recording selected programming content, the request being received through the communications network;

storage for storing requested programming content, the storage defining a plurality of storage spaces, each respective storage space being associated with a respective one of a plurality of terminals coupled to the network; and

a server responsive to the request for copying the selected programming content during broadcast of the selected programming content through the communications network, a copy of the selected programming content being stored in the respective storage space for the terminal for providing the selected programming content to the respective terminal through the communications network after broadcast thereof.

2. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the communications network includes a two-way multichannel delivery network.

3. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein the delivery network includes a cable TV network.

4. (original) The system according to claim 3, wherein the cable TV network includes a hybrid fiber coaxial (HFC) cable network.

5. (cancelled).

6. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the selected programming content is selected using a program guide.

7. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the selected programming content is selected by the system.

8. (currently amended) The system according to claim 7, wherein the selected programming content is selected based on preferences of a user at the respective terminal.

9. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein data identifying the selected programming content which has been copied is provided to the respective terminal to facilitate access to the copy of the selected programming content.

10. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the selected programming content is provided after broadcast thereof in a presentation ~~manipulatable~~ manipulable to perform at least one of rewinding, pausing and fast-forwarding on the presentation.

11. (currently amended) A communications system for providing programming content through a communications network to a plurality of terminals, the system comprising:  
storage remote from the plurality of terminals, ~~the storage having~~ for storing requested programming content in a plurality of storage spaces, ~~which are associated with the plurality of terminals, respectively~~ each respective storage space being associated with a respective one of the plurality of terminals;

an interface for receiving, from a certain one of the plurality of terminals, a request for recording selected programming content, the request being received before the selected programming content is broadcast through the communications network; and

a server responsive to the request for storing a copy of the selected programming content in the storage space associated with the certain terminal.

12. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the copy of the selected programming content is made when the selected programming content is broadcast.

13. (original) The system according to claim 12, wherein the time at which the selected programming content is broadcast is determined according to a broadcast schedule.

14. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the storage space associated with the certain terminal is identifiable within the storage based on an identifier of the certain terminal.

15. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the selected programming content is selected using a program guide.

16. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the selected programming content is selected by the system.

17. (original) The system according to claim 16, wherein the selected programming content is selected based on preferences of a user at the certain terminal.

18. (currently amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein the selected programming content is provided based on the copy thereof in a presentation ~~manipulatable~~ manipulable to perform at least one of rewinding, pausing and fast-forwarding on the presentation.

19. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the communications network includes a two-way multichannel delivery network.

20. (original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the delivery network includes a cable TV network.

21. (original) The system according to claim 20, wherein the cable TV network includes an HFC cable network.

22. (currently amended) A system for communicating with a plurality of terminals through a communications network, the system comprising:

storage remote from the plurality of terminals, ~~the storage having for storing requested programming content in~~ a plurality of storage spaces, ~~which are~~ each storage space being associated with a respective terminal from among the plurality of terminals, respectively;

an interface for receiving, through the communications network, data concerning a channel to which a certain one of the plurality of terminals is tuned; and

a server for copying programming content during broadcast thereof on the channel to which the certain terminal is tuned, and for storing a copy of the programming content ~~being~~ stored in the storage space associated with the certain terminal.

23. (original) The system according to claim 22, wherein a length of the copy of the programming content is predetermined.

24. (original) The system according to claim 22, wherein the storage space associated with the certain terminal is identifiable within the storage based on an identifier of the certain terminal.

25. (original) The system according to claim 22, wherein the communications network includes a two-way multichannel delivery network.

26. (original) The system according to claim 25, wherein the delivery network includes a cable TV network.

27. (original) The system according to claim 26, wherein the cable TV network includes an HFC cable network.

28. (currently amended) A method for use in a communications system for providing programming content through a communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, from a terminal, a request for recording selected programming content, the request being received through the communications network;

in response to the request, copying the selected programming content during broadcast of the selected programming content through the communications network; and

storing a copy of the selected programming content in a storage space in storage, the storage space being associated with the terminal, the storage defining a plurality of storage spaces, each respective storage space being associated with a respective one of a plurality of terminals coupled to the network; and

~~for~~ providing the selected programming content to the respective terminal through the communications network after broadcast thereof.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the communications network includes a two-way multichannel delivery network.

30. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the delivery network includes a cable TV network.

31. (original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the cable TV network includes an HFC cable network.

32. (cancelled).

33. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the selected programming content is selected using a program guide.

34. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the selected programming content is selected by the system.

35. (currently amended) The method according to claim 34, wherein the selected programming content is selected based on preferences of a user at the respective terminal.

36. (currently amended) The method according to claim 28, wherein data identifying the selected programming content which has been copied is provided to the respective terminal to facilitate access to the copy of the selected programming content.

37. (currently amended) The method according to claim 28, wherein the selected programming content is provided after broadcast thereof in a presentation ~~manipulatable~~ manipulable to perform at least one of rewinding, pausing and fast-forwarding on the presentation.

38. (currently amended) A method for use in a communications system for providing programming content through a communications network to a plurality of terminals, the method comprising:

providing storage remote from the plurality of terminals, ~~the storage having for storing requested programming content in a plurality of storage spaces, which are associated with the plurality of terminals, respectively~~ each respective storage space being associated with a respective one of the plurality of terminals;

receiving, from a certain one of the plurality of terminals, a request for recording selected programming content, the request being received before the selected programming content is broadcast through the communications network; and

in response to the request, storing a copy of the selected programming content in the storage space associated with the certain terminal.

39. (original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the copy of the selected programming content is made when the selected programming content is broadcast.

40. (original) The method according to claim 39, wherein the time at which the selected programming content is broadcast is determined according to a broadcast schedule.

41. (original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the storage space associated with the certain terminal is identifiable within the storage based on an identifier of the certain terminal.

42. (original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the selected programming content is selected using a program guide.

43. (original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the selected programming content is selected by the system.

44. (original) The method according to claim 43, wherein the selected programming content is selected based on preferences of a user at the certain terminal.

45. (currently amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein the selected programming content is provided based on the copy thereof in a presentation ~~manipulatable~~ manipulable to perform at least one of rewinding, pausing and fast-forwarding on the presentation.

46. (original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the communications network includes a two-way multichannel delivery network.

47. (original) The method according to claim 46, wherein the delivery network includes a cable TV network.

48. (original) The method according to claim 47, wherein the cable TV network includes an HFC cable network.

49. (currently amended) A method for communicating with a plurality of terminals through a communications network, the method comprising:

providing storage remote from the plurality of terminals, ~~the storage having for storing~~ requested programming content in a plurality of storage spaces, which are each storage space being associated with a respective terminal from among the plurality of terminals, respectively;

receiving, through the communications network, data concerning a channel to which a certain one of the plurality of terminals is tuned;

copying programming content during broadcast thereof on the channel to which the certain terminal is tuned; and

storing a copy of the programming content in the storage space associated with the certain terminal.

50. (original) The method according to claim 49, wherein a length of the copy of the programming content is predetermined.

51. (original) The method according to claim 49, wherein the storage space associated with the certain terminal is identifiable within the storage based on an identifier of the certain terminal.

52. (original) The method according to claim 49, wherein the communications network includes a two-way multichannel delivery network.

53. (original) The method according to claim 52, wherein the delivery network includes a cable TV network.

54. (original) The method according to claim 53, wherein the cable TV network includes an HFC cable network.

55. (new) The communications system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to:  
cause a copy of the selected programming content to be stored in the respective storage space for the terminal, only if a request to record the selected programming is received from the terminal.

56. (new) The communications system of claim 1, wherein:

the server is further configured to:

copy second programming content during broadcast of the second programming content through the communications network, in response to a second request from a second terminal to record the second programming content;

cause a copy of the second programming content to be stored in a second respective storage space associated with the second terminal.

57. (new) The communications system of claim 1, wherein:

the storage is configured to:

store in each respective storage space only programming content requested by the associated terminal.

58. (new) The communications system of claim 1, wherein a user associated with the terminal is charged a fee based at least in part on an amount of memory space in the respective storage space associated with the terminal.

59. (new) The communications system of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second request to view the selected programming content from the terminal;  
and

retrieving the selected programming content from the respective storage space associated with the terminal, in response to a second request.

60. (new) A communications system for providing programming content through a communications network, the system comprising:

an interface configured to:

receive requests to copy programming content from at least some terminals among a plurality of terminals in a communications network, the requests being received through the communications network;

a storage comprising at least one respective storage space associated with each individual terminal among the at least some terminals, the storage being configured to:

store requested programming content in each of the at least one respective storage space; and

a server configured to:

copy selected programming content during broadcast of the selected programming content through the communications network, in response to a request from a respective one of the at least some terminals to copy the selected programming content;

cause a copy of the selected programming content to be stored in the at least one storage space associated with the one respective terminal; and

provide the selected programming content through the communications network to the one respective terminal after broadcast thereof.